

Statement delivered by Nauru on behalf of

Federated States of Micronesia, Samoa and Solomon Islands

**Commission on Population and Development
Forty-eighth session
13th to 17th April 2015**

Item 4: General Debate on national experience in population matters: realizing the future we want – integrating population issues into sustainable development, including the post-2015 development agenda.

Madam Chair,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Federated States of Micronesia, Samoa, Solomon Islands and my own country Nauru. At the outset, allow me to offer our congratulations on your assumption to the chairmanship of the Forty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development. Let me assure you of our support as you lead our work during this important session.

We welcome the theme of this session, “Realizing the future we want: integrating population issues into sustainable development, including the post-2015 development agenda.” In light of the anticipated adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we find this year’s theme

to be fitting.

A narrow focus on just population-reducing policies misses the reality that human beings are the solution, rather than the impediment, to the achievement of sustainable development. When addressing population in relation to sustainable development, our primary focus must be with empowering and equipping populations with the ideas and resources that will prepare women and men to work with innovation and diligence to increase the quality of life for all people. Specifically, it is imperative for the achievement of sustainable development that emphasis is placed on promoting quality education for all, including girls and women, and on promoting

for all ages and abilities. These priorities are reflected in the SAMOA Pathway.

Focusing only on population-reducing policies also presents difficulties when the preferred options of some are not consistent with nationally determined priorities. Promoting abortion as a preferred method of family planning is contrary to the ICDD. It is also a great departure from the